

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 14 March 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the Mailchimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

ONGOING LICENCE RENEWAL ISSUES

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE 2020 SARL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

and

CONTEST NEWS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

ONGOING LICENCE RENEWAL ISSUES

The SARL has not received any communication from ICASA this week. It appears that the ongoing spectrum auction issues have taken up the executives' time. The SARL, on Friday, lodged an urgent appeal to the Chairman of the ICASA Council to extend the deadline for license renewals by three months to 30 June 2021. The SARL also requested that ICASA expedites the availability of a guideline and videos to assist licensees to navigate their new online license system. The current system requires Google Chrome and is not backward compatible to other browsers. The SARL also pointed this out to ICASA Management as a major issue to be addressed.

ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR THE 2020 SARL ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In terms of Rule 8.9, the SARL Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 30 June 2020 were uploaded to the SARL web site on Friday 12 March 2021 and a SARL Communication was sent to members on the same date. Members have thirty (30) days to consider the accounts, where after an electronic vote will take place from 00:00 CAT on Monday 12 April 2021 and will close at 23:59 CAT on Thursday 22 April 2021. Details about the voting will be published in SARL News closer to the time.

SARL TECHNICAL SYMPOSIUM ON 27 MARCH 2021

The Unlocking Amateur Radio Technology Symposium will take place on 27 March 2021. The programme is taking shape and will be available early next week. The programme includes discussions like "Contesting 101" with Chris Burger ZS6EZ. There is a contest that will take your amateur radio experience to a higher level. Chris will explain how.

Brian Jacobs takes the lid off the SARL Next Generation beacon programme. The SARL President will tell delegates why VHF and UHF are important for amateur radio's future.

Dr Pierre Cilliers of SANSA Space Sciences will talk about propagation predictions, how to use them and how radio amateurs can get more involved. How to build your own OSCAR 100 station from locally available sub-systems will be discussed by Anton Janovsky, ZR6AIC.

The symposium is free for SARL members and R50 for non-members. Students may attend for free. Registration details will be available on the SARL web on Monday.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

CONTEST NEWS

The second Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint runs from 17:30 to 18:30 UTC (19:30 to 20:30 CAT) on Wednesday 17 March – St Patrick's Day. You may operate CW and phone during the sprint and the exchange is an RS or RST report, your club's name and your 4-character grid square. Please remember the QSY rules for Sprints. Get the rules on page 63 of the 2021 Blue Book.

The first leg of the SARL 40 m Club Grid Square Sprint was held on Saturday 27 February and fifty-five (55) logs were received, reflecting 708 QSOs, 404 grids and 327 Clubs worked. Twelve Clubs participated.

1st the West Rand ARC – 1 208 (24 logs)

2nd the Hibiscus Coast ARC – 287 (6 logs)

3rd the Bo-Karoo ARC – 280 points (4 logs)

Individual Scores

1st Michael, ZS4BHF – 119 points

2nd Woody, ZS3WL - 118 points

3rd Veronica, ZR6TVK - 103 points

Twenty-four logs were received for the SARL Hamnet 40 metre contest held on 7 March 2021.

Single Operator Stationary Mobile

1st Christie, ZS4CGR – 2 448 points

2nd Kobus, ZS6BOS – 1 246 points
3rd Andy, ZS6ADY – 756 points
Multi-operator Portable
1st Danie, ZS6DPS – 1 848 points
1st Phillip, ZS6PVT – 1 848 points
3rd the Radio Club, ZS1RC – 1 512 points
Single Operator Base Station
1st Jan, ZS4JAN – 2 436 points
2nd John, ZS3JDL – 1 920 points
3rd Roy, ZS3RW – 1 500 points

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low levels. There is a single sunspot region with a simple magnetic configuration visible. Minor solar flaring can be expected. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around eight. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially during the afternoons, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

17 March – the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint
21 March – Human Rights Day and the Namibian Independence Day
22 March – Public Holiday in Namibia and South Africa and World Water Day
23 March – World Meteorological Day
27 March – The SARL Technical Symposium on the Bluejeans platform; the Cape Town and Boland Club meetings.
27 and 28 March – The CQ WPX SSB Contest
1 April – the SARL 80 m QSO Party
2 April – Good Friday
3 April – the RaDAR Challenge
5 April – Family Day
10 April – Autumn QRP Contest
17 April – the SARL Virtual AGM

18 April – the World Amateur Radio Day – work ZS95SARL

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

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This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Andy Cairns ZS6ADY, edited by Paul Johnson ZS1S and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.